



Please join us to learn what’s happening to our ocean and coasts--directly from the experts and students who are working on problems and solutions every day! You’ll hear about the threats-- and find out what you can do to make a difference!

The Coastal America Partnership, the JASON Project and the Learning Center Network will host an interactive webcast on **Wednesday, July 20th** coming to you live **4:30 PM EDT/1:30 PM PDT** from Chicago, Ill, and the world’s largest international gathering of ocean and coastal management professionals. By joining the webcast during Coastal Zone 2011, you can be part of the 17th biennial forum focusing on new strategies and tools for solving the challenges facing our world’s oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. You’ll learn about the United States first ever National Ocean Policy from top government officials who are, right now, helping guide--with extensive input from the public-- how it will be implemented. You can email in questions to top experts on climate change, pollution and fisheries! We’ll also have high school student on the webcast, telling you what they are doing to help fix these problems. You’ll see videos they created and hear how they’ve gotten involved.



Monterey Bay Aquarium 2011 Student Summit Delegates.

The webcast will begin with an overview of the state of our ocean with Dr. Sylvia Earle, ocean explorer and Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator. We will then focus on **climate change**; why we know it’s real, what measureable changes are already happening in the ocean and what alterations we can expect the future to bring. We’ll continue with a discussion of **pollution problems**; why is it that what happens in the Mississippi River is critical to fishermen making their living in the Gulf of Mexico? What is the “dead zone” in the Gulf? What’s been done since the BP Gulf oil spill to restore that ecosystem? Then we’ll focus on **living marine resources**; are our ocean species in trouble? Are we eating the oceans empty? We have scientific evidence of how we can bring many corals, fish, shellfish and seaweed populations back from the brink. But how do we convince people to take the steps to do it? The webcast will conclude with a valuable perspective from William Ruckelshaus, co-chair of the Joint Ocean Commission on the future outlook for our ocean and coasts.



Live experts during the webcast include representatives from the government and learning centers. **Ted Beattie**, President and CEO of Chicago’s Shedd Aquarium was a member of the President’s U.S. Ocean Commission, which created “An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century”, the effort that set the stage for the National Ocean Policy. **Margaret Davidson**, Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Coastal Services Center has been leading NOAA’s efforts to build resilient communities in the face of climate change. **Bryon Griffith**, Deputy Director of the President’s Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, is responsible for coordinating the effort to address all the threats the Gulf is facing in the wake of the BP oil spill. **Pat Montanio**, Director, Office of Habitat Conservation, NOAA, oversees the agency’s habitat programs. **Jerry Schubel**, President and CEO of the Aquarium of the Pacific is a renowned marine scientist. **Eileen Sobeck**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the Department of Interior is the co-chair of our nation’s Ocean Resource Management Interagency Policy Committee. These live experts will discuss the issues, the new National Ocean Policy and help us peer into the future.



We’ll be webcasting to you from the Shedd Aquarium on Chicago’s Lake Michigan waterfront. This aquarium is one of twenty four members of the Learning Center Network, whose member institutes can be found throughout North America. Other representatives of the Network and some of their student volunteers will be on hand to give us their perspectives. The student activists who will participate live are drawn from three of the Network members; the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, the Seattle Aquarium and of course the Shedd Aquarium. They’ll tell you about their water monitoring project, efforts to raise community awareness of how ocean acidification is affecting the Suquamish Tribe economically, environmentally and culturally, and what kind of activities they are creating to raise community awareness of climate change. Don’t miss this unique opportunity!

For more information visit www.jason.org/science/Live/coastal2/jason/event.aspx

